Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 NO. 1 SPRING, 1970

PIONEER SEMINAR ON TRANSSEXUALISM

A significant milestone in the effort to meet some of the social needs of individuals with the transsexual condition was reached in San Francisco in January at the Glide Memorial Church. A planning seminar, moderated by Officer Elliott R. Blackstone of The Police Community Relations Unit and sponsored by the National Transsexual Counseling Unit, attracted scores of professional people in relevant fields and supportive services.

Panel members explaining transsexualism were Dr. John Alden, neurologist and psychiatrist; Dr. Joel Fort, Professor of Social Welfare at Berkeley, and Ron Lee of the Center for Special Problems.

Following a presentation of their problems by transsexuals, led by Wendy Kohler, director of the Counseling Unit, a series of speakers discussed the services available, limited as they now are. These speakers represented the Veterans Administration; State Department of Rehabilitation and Training; Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation; Department of Social Services, ATD, as well as the Human Resources Development Corp., on employment; Hospitality House and Suicide Prevention.

Julie Smith of the San Francisco Chronicle and Tom DeVries, KQED-TV, discussed the needs and means of good publicity to educate public opinion. They effectively implemented their suggestions: KQED-TV's video news coverage of the seminar and Julie Smith's Women's World column report indicated the progress made in the media's treatment of this stimulating subject.

EYES RIGHT ON SAN FRANCISCO!

Spotlight on progress in the handling of social problems of the transsexual is well focused on San Francisco. As only part of his heavy schedule in the Police Community Relations Unit, Officer Elliott R. Blackstone has given immeasurable assistance to people with this problem. Following a period of volunteer assistance to him, Wendy Kohler was appointed Research Coordinator, funded by an EEF grant. Miss Kohler is also founder-director of the National Transsexual Counseling Unit, recently organized with a distinguished board of consultants.

LOOK INSPECTS TRANSSEXUALISM!

Thanks to the fine journalistic efforts of Roland H. Berg, whose article, "The Transsexuals—Male or Female?" in January 27, 1970, **LOOK** has enlightened millions of readers on this little understood subject.

"I didn't know . . ."—"I never gave it much thought before . . ."—"I didn't really understand . . ."—are just a few of the common reactions. Earnest scientific research, depth interviews with specialists in the field as well as pre-operative and post-operative transsexuals, combined with skill and sympathy, have resulted in a human contribution of great magnitude. Those who have missed the issue will find reference to it worthwhile.

A PRETTY GIRL NOT ALWAYS A MELODY

The caption of Viki Maymon's picture in the **LOOK** article: "I'm a woman. Must my life be ruined," Viki asks, "because nature gave me a male's organs?" was the theme not only of her interview for the article. Viki appeared on the Dick Cavett Show, ABC-TV network, with Dr. Charles Ihlenfeld, associate of Dr. Harry Benjamin, continuing the theme of the transsexual's dilemma. On the NBC "Long John Nebel" program, Roland Berge accompanied Viki, discussing the theme with two psychiatrists. She was also interviewed on NBC radio Monitor program by Barbara Walters. The **LOOK** promotion of the article concluded with Dr. Leo Wollman's appearance on the Long John Nebel program.

MAIL RESPONSE TO LOOK ARTICLE

The suggestion to seek further information or help from the Baton Rouge office of the Erickson Educational Foundational has evoked a daily flood of inquiries. Additional secretaries have been employed to give individual attention and reply to each letter.

It is encouraging to report that the list of physicians for referral throughout the country is growing. Those doctors who signify their willingness to treat transsexual patients will receive periodical relevant information.

We welcome inquiries and cooperation from any professional or lay individuals who recognize this problem as an area for their concern.

SEMINAR SPOTLIGHTS

. . . Here's a switch—a police officer protesting against too much praise! Speaker after speaker paid such warm tribute to Elliott Blackstone until he could take no more. He promised a kick on the shins to the next speaker who said anything nice about him! The testimonial flow stopped but the incident made good material for KQED-TV's video news programs.

. . . In summarizing the conference, the Rev. Ted McIlvenna of the National Sex and Drug Forum at Glide was not encouraged that many problems had been solved. It was a primary step, however, in communication and education and should certainly be emulated by other communities.

. . . Contrary to the growing women's liberation movement tenets is the transsexual's preoccupation with grooming "femininity" and jobs "compatible" with the new gender. NCTU Counseling Coordinator Catherine Ricks commented: "We're second place . . . we have to try harder."

. . . A vital significance of the seminar seemed to be that a large group of people met to discuss a problem, dined together and socialized as people—not always aware of who was who—but in acceptance of one another as worthwhile members of the human family, which is what everyone seeks regardless of gender identification. World, please copy!

ACTIVITY ON MANY FRONTS

In addition to the counseling of transsexuals on medical, professional and other sources of available help, public education is being furthered through personal, radio, TV, community, college and Glide Forum presentations.

ON-THE-STREET RADIO SERIES

The National Transsexual Counseling Unit is broadcasting every second Friday and fourth Tuesday in Crown-Zellerbach Square, San Francisco, over KQED-FM, 2 PM, for one hour.

Hosted by Wendy Kohler, this unique educational program features professional, invited guests in public discussion of the medical, social and legal problems of transsexualism, including such specific aspects as the differences between transsexualism, transvestitism and homosexuality.

The caliber of the program, guests and its reception by the public marks this as a high spot.

EDITOR'S COMPLAINT

The administrators of the Erickson Educational Foundation are constantly gratified by the progress of the work projects which we sponsor.

However, the remarkable activity and achievements of our latest grantees in the Police Community Relations project have resulted in a reluctance to go to press with the Newsletter. We don't know what enterprising and exciting thing will happen next!

ELLIOTT BLACKSTONE HONORED

"A peace officer in every sense of the word . . . he upholds the law, defends right and makes peace between the elements in our society who are in conflict," declared Rev. Oliver Lynch, O.F.M., as he awarded the Poverello Award for Social Justice to Blackstone, the first San Francisco policeman to be so cited by the Franciscan Family of the West.

Twenty years with the Police Department, Elliott Blackstone's wide range of accomplishments include his position as Liaison Officer with the Office of Economic Opportunity as well as the Police Community Relations Unit whose work among transsexuals is now receiving EEF support.

ON THE LEGAL FRONT

Inquiries are coming in from attorneys in various parts of the country concerning the legal aspects of transsexualism. At the suggestion of one of these attorneys, a Legal Advisory Committee has been established.

Interested members of the bar are invited to communicate with the EEF in this connection.

KUDOS TO KNBC, LOS ANGELES

For their sympathetic video presentation of transsexualism in a recent CLOSE-UP series on homosexuality. Appearing on the program were Christine Jorgensen, psychiatrists Dr. Judd Marmor and Dr. Richard Green.

RECOMMENDED READING

TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX REASSIGNMENT

Editors: Richard Green, M.D., and John Money, Ph.D.

CONTENTS: (Abridged)

Part I—**Social and Clinical Aspects of Transsexualism**
Part II—**Psychological Aspects of Transsexualism**
Part III—**Somatic Aspects of Transsexualism**
Part IV—**Treatment Aspects of Transsexualism**
Part V—**Medicolegal Aspects of Transsexualism**

"This book is a thorough and excellent compendium of what is presently known about transsexualism and, as such, is indispensable to clinicians, scientists, and any others who are frequently concerned with treating or studying human sexuality." —*Paul H. Gebhard, Director, Institute for Sex Research, Inc., Indiana University*

"An important, valuable and comprehensive compendium of current available knowledge concerning this intriguing and baffling area in sexual deviation. It contains a wealth of clinical data that so far as I know is not available anywhere else in a single volume."—*Judd Marmor, M.D., Director, Divisions of Psychiatry, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center*

($15.00 The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md. 21218)

JOTTINGS FROM JOHNS HOPKINS

. . . After his return from a medical/anthropological expedition among the Aborigines of Arnhem Land, northern Australia, Dr. John Money, Associate Professor of Medical Psychology and Pediatrics, and member of the Gender Identity Committee, participated in a panel on endocrinology and intersexuality at the Chicago International Meeting of the Society for Pediatric Urology.

. . . Dr. Howard W. Jones, Jr., surgeon and gynecologist on the Gender Identity Committee, was also on the panel.

. . . Dr. Money's public lecture on hermaphroditism and transsexualism on the Behavioral Genetics Program at the University of Minnesota in December was widely and well reported in the press.

. . . Dr. Anke A. Ehrhardt, instructor in Medical Psychology, is continuing her EEF-sponsored postdoctoral fellowship work on **Psychosexual Differentiation,** the book co-authored with Dr. Money.

. . . Dr. Ehrhardt lectured on sex hormones and environment at the Postgraduate Assembly of the Medical School Endocrine Society and on psychosexual differentiation at Children's Hospital, Buffalo.

. . . A colloquium in psychology on gender identity and psychosexual differentiation was conducted by Dr. Money at Wayne State University in Detroit. He is also conducting, for John Hopkins medical students, a lecture course on Human Sexual Behavior, the first of its kind there.

. . . A symposium on the Current Status of the Sex Reassignment Operation took place in October at the N. Y. Academy of Medicine, at a combined meeting of Sections on Urology, Neurology and Psychiatry, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. A Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Committee panel participated.

. . . The Gender Identity Clinic is giving primary attention to follow-up of treated cases. One recent case of reassignment surgery has taken place. Thoroughly careful selection of future cases will continue.

. . . A post-operative transsexual has released her serialized biographical story to the German weekly, *Neue Revue*, a magazine which has a penchant for sensationalism. The story should be read for fun, as dramatic, personalized fiction. It is not accurate in its details as medical history, cautions a Johns Hopkins spokesman.

SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM REQUESTED

At the request of a number of Gender Identity Committees an invitational workshop of team members will be scheduled to take place early in 1971 at a university medical center in the U.S.A.

Interested physicians may obtain further information from the Baton Rouge office of the Erickson Educational Foundation.

DR. BENJAMIN HONORED

Dr. Harry Benjamin, pioneer researcher and practitioner in behalf of the transsexual patient, was awarded one of two Annual Awards for significant contributions to the scientific study of sex at the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex in November, 1969.

PSYCHOTHERAPY MEETING THEME

At the 230th Scientific Meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, March 1970, the subject "Should Surgery Be Performed on Transsexuals?" was presented by Dr. Harry Benjamin. Discussant Dr. Robert Laidlaw, Emeritus Chairman, Division of Psychiatry, Roosevelt Hospital, N.Y.C., decisively reported to his colleagues present that years of experience proved that psychiatry was not a cure for this condition. It was emphasized that psychiatry was necessary for evaluation of a patient for possible surgery.

LONDON EFFORTS CONSOLIDATED

Another concrete result of the First International Gender Identity Symposium in London, 1969, sponsored by the Albany Trust and the Erickson Educational Foundation, is now in evidence. Professor C. J. Dewhurst, who chaired the program, has announced that the professional activities of the members of the transsexual treatment and reassignment team have been located at the Chelsea Hospital for Women. A grant for at least one year has been allocated by the Erickson Educational Foundation to help this progressive project.

TRANSSEXUAL STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Dr. Ira B. Pauly, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Oregon Medical School, is taking a sabbatical leave in Australia. A veteran researcher and writer on transsexualism, and a contributor to **Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment**, Dr. Pauly will be assisted in his work by an EEF grant.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER IDENTITY

Has been tentatively scheduled to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, April 1-3, 1971.

Further details will be announced at a later date.

WEST GEORGIA COLLEGE LEARNS

Graduate students in this Carrollton, Ga., college psychology department under the direction of Dr. Myron Arons, recently heard Phoebe Smith discuss the subject of transsexualism.

Phoebe courageously had permitted her story to be presented in The Atlanta Constitution, which also printed the excellent feature: "They Need, Deserve, Help—Transsexuality Explained."

SOCIOLOGISTS STUDY TRANSSEXUALISM

Harold T. Christensen, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at Purdue University, recipient of a small EEF grant, presented a post-operative transsexual at class lectures and public forums in 1968 and 1969 to discuss her life history and present adjustment.

In November, 1969, Dr. John Money gave slide lectures on "Psychosexual Differentiation." These presentations in connection with the course, "Men and Women in Modern Society," before advanced students and staff from the departments of Sociology, Psychology, Child Development, etc., "generated great interest and helped build basic understandings of a little understood phenomenon that can have lasting effects with present and future leaders in the teaching and helping professions in this part of the country," reported Dr. Christensen.

On several occasions Professor Christensen studied the work being done at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and also attended Dr. Leo Wollman's group meetings of transsexual patients in New York City.

Dr. Kathryn Johnsen is associated with Dr. Christensen's work on sex role research and they see this study of transsexualism as a lead-in to their more broadly gauged project on the measurement of masculinity and femininity.

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER BLAZES NEW TRAIL

Two high school class sessions on transsexualism were recently conducted by Dale R. Morrison, social science teacher in Carpenteria, Calif., and reported in the local paper.

"My interest in transsexualism," Mr. Morrison wrote us, "has two bases: a moral one and a scientific one. In the realm of morality I am committed to bringing topics of this sort out in the open, particularly in the high schools, and further to establish that, when areas of a 'taboo' nature are handled well and in good taste they can gain community encouragement and support. This discussion on transsexualism represented a general attempt on my part to innovate on the high school level.

"In speaking with many of the students afterwards, I was very pleased to note a new feeling of sensitivity, understanding and open-mindedness.

"Specifically, the program consisted of myself touching on the socio-psychological aspects of the issue and a local medical doctor talking about the biological issues involved. This was followed by a tape called DEBBIE. This taped presentation was by far the most powerful aspect of the program in that it gave the students an opportunity to actually hear an interview with a transsexual. It proved to be a very moving experience for most. The program was therefore an attempt to create an educational experience well beyond the 'normal' unimaginative ones students all too often experience."

Mr. Morrison, now on California Polytech faculty, taped student interviews, and questionnaires filled in by the high school students and faculty members are now being analyzed. Relationship between the program, discussion and any possible attitude changes will be reported on in depth.

The total data include material obtained from two additional programs at California State Polytech at San Luis Obispo, covering about 200 college students and faculty members.

SEATTLE COUNSELING SERVICE

The EEF spirit of not being tradition-bound where human needs are concerned is reflected in the recent report from Dr. R. W. Deisher of the University of Washington Medical School, concerning EEF-grantee, The Dorian Counseling Service for young homosexuals.

". . . it was planned that the service would operate in a manner similar to traditional community service and appointments would be made on a regular basis for people desiring help. This view is somewhat unrealistic for the group we are dealing with. Many of the calls are from people who are much too anxious to make personal appointments. Some will talk for long periods on the phone; some will then be willing to schedule appointments, often necessary for short intervals several times a week. . . . The traditional psychiatric or social work type of interviews seems frequently inappropriate . . . (with) a great deal more flexibility and have dealt with a large number of problems."

The counseling staff of ten consists of psychology, social work or counseling postgraduate and medical students. Two psychiatric consultants work primarily with them following an orientation course on the homosexual's problems. There are seven additional volunteers, led by an expert in employment counseling and rehabilitation, as well as a pyschiatric consultant.

The counseling phase of the service is not to try to induce homophiles to become heterosexual, unless such change is desired. Applicants are referred to employers in the usual agency manner, not as homophiles, and have been placed in jobs ranging from bank executive trainee to dishwasher. Often the problem of a person's sexuality is not even dealt with in counseling.

"One goal besides our counseling service is to assist with the education of the straight community so that they can understand homosexuality and homosexuals. People shouldn't look at homosexuality as an oddity," Dr. Deisher was recently quoted in the University of Washington "Daily."

AND THEN THERE'S THE VOICE . . .

Certified voice teacher Henry N. Jacobi of New York City has started a class in voice production, correction and range developing, particularly geared to the needs and problems of transsexuals.

I S H R SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION

The recommendations of "The Hooker Report" on homosexuality made to the National Institute of Mental Health were discussed at the January Annual Meeting of the Institute for the Study of Human Resources, a tax-exempt foundation established by the Erickson Educational Foundation which is working closely with ONE, Inc., Los Angeles.

A motion was carried: "That I S H R establish a Commission on Social Policy to implement such parts of the 'Hooker Report' as seemed appropriate and that other institutions and organizations be invited to cooperate to that end with I S H R."

ALBANY TRUST ACTIVITY

Information obtained by the Trust in a recent survey of the social needs of homosexual men and women will be utilized in their effort to improve the situation. Hundreds of desperate young people seek help yearly at the office. Public support of the work is always needed and welcomed. The Albany Trust, dedicated to research, education and social action publishes a journal, **Man and Society;** a newsletter, Spectrum, and an interesting series, "Talking Point" pamphlets. Write Antony Grey, Director, 32 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1V 8 EP.

STUDIES IN TIME AND VOID

Two EEF-sponsored projects on mystical states induced by hypnosis have been completed by Bernard S. Aaronson, Ph.D., Chief Experimental Psychologist at N.J. Neuro-Psychiatric Institute, Princeton.

The papers presented by Dr. Aaronson on his research were:

"Time, Time Stance and Existence," at the International Society for the Study of Time, September 1969 meeting in Oberwolfach, West Germany, and

"Hypnotic Induction of the Void," at the meeting of the American Society for Clinical Hypnosis, San Francisco, November 1969. According to Dr. Aaronson, "void" is achieved when hypnotic induction creates what is the fundamental experience of introvertive mysticism.

DESENSITIZATION PROJECT CONTINUED

The desensitization project against the consequences of air pollution, begun under the sponsorship of EEF, will be continued by the International Research Institute for Homeopathy under the direction of William Gutman, M.D., New York, project founder.

Good progress has been made. Apart from favorable effects of desensitization, the preparation produced by one of the compounds has been effective in various cases of bronchial asthma and emphysema. Reports of successful cases have appeared in American and European medical journals. Further research will be conducted in other areas.

Closing the recent Greek government-sponsored International Congress for Homeopathic Research in Athens, Dr. Gutman gave the official speech in honor of Hippocrates at Kos, birthplace of the founder of medicine where the latter taught.

DREAM STUDY SEEKS TO LESSEN CHILDBIRTH PERIL

Can the dreams of pregnant women aid obstetricians? Dr. Stanley Krippner, director of the William C. Menninger Dream Laboratory, Maimonides Medical Center, thinks that the EEF co-sponsored study might provide greater insight into the health of both mother-to-be and unborn child.

The final report of the completed study is in preparation and will eventually be published in a scientific journal and presented at professional meetings.

Hundreds of recorded dreams in the course of the study indicated those of pregnant women differed greatly from those of non-pregnant women. Dr. Krippner also found some evidence that women who experienced difficulties in childbirth had foreshadowed this in their dreams. They often dreamed about the type of difficulty encountered.

GENDER IDENTITY DREAM STUDY

One hundred dreams of pre-operative male transsexuals have been collected under the direction of Dr. Stanley Krippner. These are being analyzed and their content compared with the dream content from 500 male dreams and 500 female dreams to determine differences and/or resemblances. The statistical tables are being prepared and the report is in process.

In another phase of the project, the 500 male and 500 female dreams will be compared. A masculinity-femininity dream scale will be developed and the 100 male pre-operative transsexual dreams will be rated on this scale.

KRIPPNER PAPERS IN PRINT

The EEF-supported paper, "Psychedelic Experience and Language" presented by Dr. Stanley Krippner at the 1968 International Conference on General Semantics is included in the conference proceedings and will also be a chapter in **Psychedelics, Their Uses and Implications,** edited by Bernard Aaronson and Humphrey Osmond (Doubleday, June, 1970).

Another EEF-assisted project, a paper, "Consciousness and the Creative Process," presented by Dr. Krippner at the 1968 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Gifted Children, appeared in its journal and will be a chapter in a forthcoming book on creativity edited by John Gowan and Paul Torrance.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

We are always glad to receive information that may be of interest to our readers.

There is no charge for this Newsletter. However, contributions (IRS tax deductible) are appreciated.

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